



## News Release

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &  
Thunder Basin National Grassland  
<http://fs.usda.gov/mbf>

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### **Dry Conditions Prompt Fire Restriction on Thunder Basin National Grassland**

**(DOUGLAS, Wyo.) September 30, 2011** – Fire restrictions have been placed into effect on the Thunder Basin National Grassland by the Forest Service as of Friday, Sept. 30. A lack of recent moisture has created dry conditions on the Grassland, which combined with hot and dry weather makes for high fire danger. The restrictions are necessary to protect public health and safety.

Big-game hunting seasons open on the Grassland this coming weekend and the Douglas Ranger District wants to make sure all visitors are aware of the high fire danger and subsequent restrictions. The weather forecast is for continued high fire danger.

The following prohibitions are in effect until further notice.

- Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire or stove fire. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to charcoal grills, hibachis and coal or wood burning stoves.
- Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.
- EXCEPTIONS: Petroleum fueled stoves, lanterns or heating devices are allowed on all National Forest Service lands provided such devices meet the fire underwriter's specifications for safety.

Visitors to the Grassland are reminded not to park vehicles in tall dry grass because hot tailpipes can cause the grass to catch on fire. Any ignition – cigarettes, campfires, vehicles – could be the cause of a wildland fire, as grass and other vegetation is dry and extremely flammable.

Violating fire restrictions on federal lands could result in a fine of \$5,000 and six months in jail. Anyone negligently or willfully starting a wildland fire could also be held responsible for the costs of that fire.

Two Forest Service cooperators, the Bureau of Land Management and Converse County have also put into effect Stage 1 fire restrictions this week.

For more information call the Douglas Ranger District at 307-358-4690 or visit <http://fs.usda.gov/mbf>.

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